

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 36087 071229Z

44

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /035 W

----- 026838

R 071229Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7704

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 36087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BENC, IV

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: IVORY COAST/U.S./FRANCE

CONFLICT REGARDING AWARD OF MAJOR CONTRACT FOR

CENTRAL SWITCHING OFFICES

REF: (A) STATE 295201, (B) PARIS 12951, (C) PARIS

32931, (D) PARIS 10277, (E) PARIS 09237

1. THOMPSON CSF PURCHASED AN ITT SUBSIDIARY IN FRANCE THIS YEAR BUT IT WAS LE MATERIEL TELEPHONIQUE (LMT), NOT COMPAGNIE GENERAL DE CONSTRUCTIONS TELEPHONIQUES (CGCT) (SEE REFTEL B). NORTH ELECTRIC'S MISUNDERSTANDING MAY RESULT FROM FACT THAT GOF HAD ORIGINALLY PRESSED ITT TO SELL PART INTEREST IN CGCT TO THOMPSON CSF, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY BACKED DOWN (SEE REFTEL E). CGCT CONTINUES TO BE AN ITT SUBSIDIARY. EMBASSY IS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH ITT AND HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY NEW FRENCH PLANS TO TAKE OVER THIS ITT SUBSIDIARY. HOWEVER, CGCT IS UNDER PRESSURE (AS ARE OTHER FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS) TO EXPAND EXPORTS (SEE REFTEL C). FRENCH INTERESTS (THOMPSON) GAINED MAJORITY CONTROL OF ERICSSON FRANCE EARLIER THIS YEAR (SEE REFTEL B).

2. EMBASSY IS REPEATING PARIS REFTELS TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN FOR INFORMATION.

RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: coburnhl
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE ABIDJAN
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